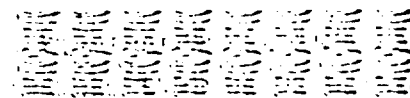


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RICHARD B. OGILVIE
Governor



WILLIAM L. BLASER
DIRECTOR

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 6, 1971

ST. CLAIR COUNTY -- Cahokia - Sauget
Harold Waggoner & Co.
Chemical Discharge

REPLY TO:

Harold Waggoner & Co.
1300 Queeny Avenue
Sauget, Illinois

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE II
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
117 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62234

Gentlemen:

On April 8, 1971, and July 28, 1971, technical representatives of this Agency made an inspection of your property and noted the following deficiency:

Tanker trucks labeled as corrosive were observed to be apparently discharging their contents to Dead Creek and causing a polluttional condition therein.

You are hereby directed to immediately eliminate any additional discharges to waters of the State. You are also directed to notify this Agency as to the steps taken to abate the discharge.

Failure to comply with above directive will lead to referral to our Division of Legal Services for the purpose of seeking appropriate legal action.

Very truly yours,

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

R. L. Schleuger, Supervisor
Mississippi Basin
Surveillance Section

EWY/at

cc: DWPC
Mississippi Basin ✓
Mr. Roscoe Easteridge
Mr. Joseph S. L. Vigni

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL - SURVEILLANCE SECTION

FROM: Eric W. Merz, Mississippi Basin Office

SUBJECT: ST. CLAIR COUNTY -- Cahokia - Sauget
Harold Waggoner & Co.
Chemical Discharge

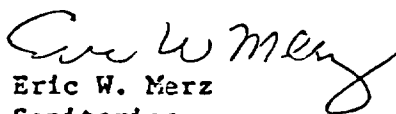
DATES OF VISIT: April 8, 1971 and July 28, 1971

On the above dates, the writer observed tanker trucks labeled as corrosive to be apparently discharging their contents to Dead Creek near Queeny Avenue.

An actual discharge was not observed, but the condition of the creek and photographs taken seem to indicate a discharge is taking place. (The photographs are attached to the Basin copy of this memo.)

A letter to the subject is attached asking immediate abatement of the apparent discharge.

The above is for your information.


Eric W. Merz
Sanitarian

EWM/at
8-05-71

cc: Mississippi Basin

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OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM[REDACTED]
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 20, 1980

TO Reed

FROM Steve

SUBJECT Telephone conversation with Della Schmidt at 10:30 a.m.

I called Della Schmidt at her home and spoke with her in reference to Dead Creek. I had previously spoken with her four or five weeks ago and gave her my name and number and told her to call me back when she had a better chance to call. She told me at that time that her daughter was sick in the hospital and she was pretty shook up and didn't want to talk to anybody at that time.

Today she was very hesitant about knowing anything about Dead Creek. She said that she had lived very close to the Creek in a trailer owned by Harold Waggoner. She had lived there from 1965 to 1978. She moved out in March of 1978. She lived there rent-free, as it was included as part of her salary. At one point Waggoner did build onto the trailer for storage purposes.

In 1967 or 1968 Harold Schmidt had a car accident and Della Schmidt had taken him in to take care of him. He was staying at the trailer with Della before they were married (in 1969). They had built up the ground in back of the trailer a little bit and put in a small snow fence about four feet high, and she planted trees. She said she had quite a bit of problems with the rats. They put in a small sidewalk, which ran along the fence, using old pieces of concrete they had gotten from Monsanto evidently was demolition waste.

Mrs. Schmidt knew nothing of anybody dumping or allowing dumping into the Creek. I asked about her husband reporting to IEPA back on April 8, 1971 about a yellow substance in the Creek. She was very surprised and did not believe that he actually had contacted anyone in reference to that problem. He had never mentioned it to her, she said. She said that if he had mentioned it to her they probably would have moved if it was such a bad thing. She said that she's sure this can't be true. I told her that it was documented, that we had it in writing that something had happened nine years ago when he reported it. I

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asked if she could remember anything in reference to it. She denied knowing anything about it or that anything like that ever even happened in reference to the culverts. She said that there was a gas line put in and she watched it being put in. Evidently the embankment around the gas line was being washed away by the flow from the north side of Queeny coming through on the south side of the culvert. She assumed the reason they were pouring the concrete down the bank over the top of the culvert was because of the washing away of the ground around the gas line. She could not remember who did it or when it was done. I asked her to think about it and if she could remember or come up with anybody that would know to contact me with the approximate date of when the culvert was plugged up (or attempted to be plugged up).

I told her that her husband believed that the culvert was not plugged up sufficiently because he stated that when water on the north side of Queeny would vary in depth it would cause the water on the south side also to change. Thus he believed that the culvert was not sufficiently blocked. She could not believe any of this because she thought that he would have told her if there were any problems with the ditch. (Evidently whether he did or not she would not admit it.) She stressed that the only problem she ever had with the ditch was rats and snakes. She said that her sons, one of which was killed in Vietnam back in 1971, used to play around the ditch and cause it to flame up by stirring a stick in the ground. (Her son had mentioned this to her and she now acted as if it never had happened other than until he had mentioned it to her.)

She never knew anything about the fire department being out there, or the EPA or anyone, and she did not want to say anything that would cause problems for Harold Waggoner. I explained to her that what we needed to know about Harold Waggoner we already knew. We were trying to locate anyone who would help bear the burden of cleaning this mess up which was there, besides Mr. Waggoner or possibly Monsanto. I stressed the point that we already had what we needed to know about Waggoner and what we were looking for was someone else. I gave her my phone number and how to get back in touch with me if she found out anything else.

She said that behind the trailer, across the creek, there was an area which was gardened by Weise Engineering, or at least they owned the property anyway. They came over and cleaned some weeds out for her one time.

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November 19, 1980

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She also said she wondered why Monsanto wanted to get in touch with her. I asked her to explain this. She said that she had met Mr. Loney Reeves in a coffee shop in the end of October. Mr. Loney Reeves originates out of Sauget. He is a retired Monsanto employee. A Mr. Small from Monsanto, who has a title of Grand Marshall, which she does not understand what that actually means, was asking Mr. Reeves about the lady who lived in the trailer, not specifically Della Schmidt, but the lady who lived in the trailer, whoever that might be. She seemed a little worried about what Monsanto would want to know from her. She said that I have nothing to tell you so I would have nothing to tell them.

She mentioned her son's name - Michael Hedgecock. He went in the Navy when he was eighteen. He's 31 years old now, and he's a Chief (of what I don't know) and is stationed in Kittery, Maine, building or repairing ships. I asked her to get a hold of him and find out when it would be convenient for him to call me, because he apparently lived in the Cahokia area for just a couple of years when he was 16 years old. Apparently Michael and his brother played around in the area and were aware of the ground igniting, smoking or flaming. She said she knew nothing of any of this.

She kept stressing that she knew nothing, had never seen anything, and was completely blind to the fact that there ever was anything wrong in the Creek. I told her what I wanted, gave her my name and number and asked her to get back in touch with me if she should happen to think when they had dumped the concrete down on the culvert and why, any specific date or a general idea. She said that Loney Reeves might be able to help me in that aspect of it but she said he's 80 years old and his memory comes and goes. She understands the kids used to ice skate down the Creek and she could not understand why anyone wasn't hurt before now.

SW
JL

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